

26. A NEW SPIDER OF THE GENUS *ISCHNOTHYREUS*
SIMON (FAMILY OONOPIDAE) FROM INDIA

(With five text-figures)

The spiders of the family Oonopidae are little known in India and the genus *Ischnothyreus* Simon, has not been reported previously from India. While examining a spider collection from Shillong, I came across a new species of spider of the genus *Ischnothyreus*, which is described here.

The type specimen will in due course be deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Ischnothyreus shillongensis* sp. nov.**

General : Cephalothorax reddish-brown, legs and abdomen green. Total length 2.80 mm. Carapace 1.20 mm. long, 1.10 mm. wide ; abdomen 1.70 mm. long, 1.00 mm. wide.

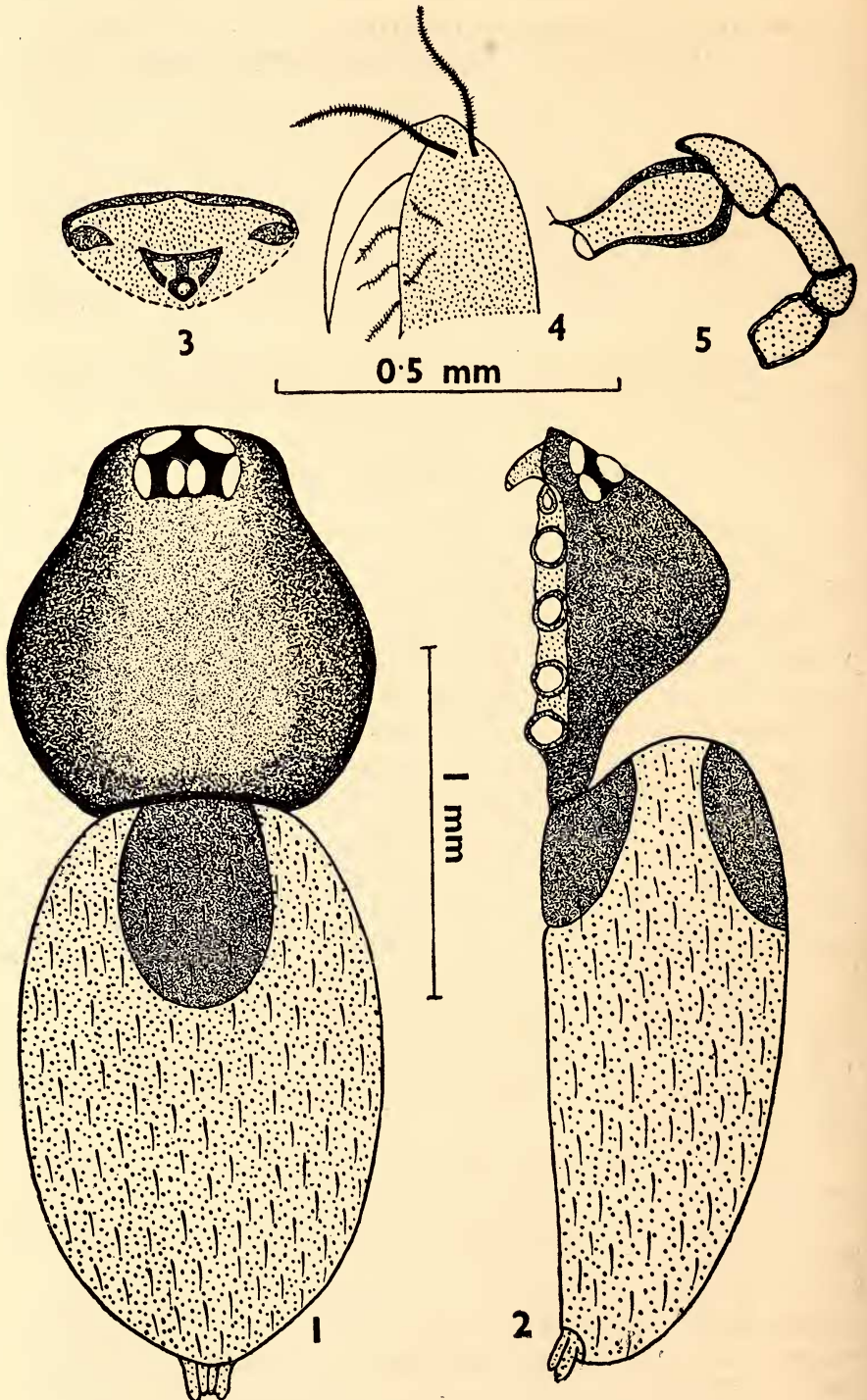
Cephalothorax : Slightly longer than wide or nearly as long as wide, clothed with fine hairs. Middle of cephalothorax high and sloping both sides. Eyes six and pearly white but posterior median eyes less white than others, arranged in two rows, posterior median eyes smaller than others. Ocular area provided with conspicuous black patch. Clypeus moderate. Chelicerae vertical, boss absent, double row of hairs beside promargin, tooth and denticle absent (fig. 4). Sternum heart-shaped, longer than wide, clothed with fine hairs, mid-anteriorly with a longitudinal black mark. Legs clothed with fine hairs and a few spines. Femora and tibiae of I and II legs with three and four robust ventral spines respectively.

Abdomen : Nearly elliptical, clothed with hairs. Anterior side provided with small conspicuous scutum (figs. 1 and 2). Ventral side slightly lighter than dorsal, and anterior portion up to epigastric grooves with a scutum (fig. 2). Epigyne as in fig. 3. Male smaller than female. Male palp as in fig. 5.

Holotype : One female, *paratype* two females and *allotype* one male in spirit.

Type-locality : Shillong Peak, Shillong, Assam, India. Coll. Shyamrup Biswas, 6.4.1967.

This species appears to be closely related to *Ischnothyreus omus* Suman described from Hawaii Islands. However, *Ischnothyreus shillongensis* differs from *I. omus* by the structure of the male palp and female epigyne. The dorsal scutum of *I. shillongensis* is smaller than that of



Figs. 1-5. *Ischnothyreus shillongensis* sp. nov.

1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted ; 2. Lateral view of female, legs omitted ;
3. Epigyne ; 4. Lateral view of chelicera ; 5. Male palp.

I. omus. The cephalothorax of *I. shillongensis* is reddish-brown but in *I. omus* the cephalothorax has a pair of large brown patches behind the eyes.

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- SUMAN, T. W. (1965): Spiders of the family Oonopidae in Hawaii. *Pacific Insects* 7 (2): 225-242.
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27. ON THE ABUNDANT OCCURRENCE OF *DESMOPTERUS GARDINERI* TESCH 1910, (THECOSOMATA : MOLLUSCA), IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

(With a map)

The genus *Desmopterus* was created by Chun in 1888 to include a single species *D. papilio*. This species is known to have a wide range of distribution from 35°N to 40°S latitudes in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Meisenheimer 1905; Tesch 1910, 1946).

Tesch added a new species, *D. gardineri* in 1910, based on a single specimen collected near the Chagos Archipelago (Map) during the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition (Tesch 1910). *D. gardineri* is distinguished from *D. papilio* by the form and arrangement of the muscle bands of the two fins. In both species the muscle bands run in two main directions, at right angles to one another. But in *D. gardineri*, the muscle bands are distinctly broader and clearly separated from one another, in contrast to *D. papilio*.

Since 1910, the only noteworthy collections reported on from the Indian Ocean are the Dana collections of 1928-30 Tesch (1946, 1948). He was unable to find examples of either species of *Desmopterus* in the Indian Ocean stations, and only one record of *D. papilio* from the Atlantic (vide p. 41, Tesch 1948). The present author has been unable to trace any published record of *D. gardineri* from the Indian Ocean or the other oceans of the world, since the date of original description.

The studies now in progress in the Indian Ocean Biological Centre, Ernakulam, (Kerala), on the Thecosomata (Opisthobranchiata, Order